

appreciable. Accordingly, the regulation is physiologically adequate.

The concentration of sea water is another nearly constant characteristic, though generally speaking the salinity is somewhat greater on the high seas than near the coasts, where fresh water is constantly diluting the salt water, and there are some other causes which produce slight variations. The average salt content is about 3.45 per cent. The quantities of the more important constituents, calculated from Dittmar's data,¹ are as follows:—

	PER CENT	RELATIVE AMOUNT
Sodium, Na	1.049	30.59
Magnesium, Mg	0.130	3.79
Calcium, Ca	0.041	1.20
Potassium, K	0.038	1.11
Chlorine, Cl	1.896	55.27
Sulphate, SO ₄	0.263	7.66
Carbonate, CO ₃	0.007	0.21
Bromine, Br	0.006	0.19

Most of the other numerous constituents are present in very small quantities. For instance, in each metric ton of sea water there

¹ Dittmar, Report of Voyage of the *Challenger*, 1884, p. 203. The original data were calculated upon the erroneous assumption that the various salts exist in solution independ-